

Council Candidate Inquiry

DEPARTMENT: Public Works
REQUEST NO: 2
REQUESTED BY: Mary Jo Hernandez (with Laura Pressley copied)
DATE REQUESTED: Monday, August 4

REQUEST:

Hi Aleksiiina/ Neil,

Unfortunately I was not able to attend your open house at Gus Garcia last Tuesday night regarding the bike lanes and planned routes to and from school for Hart Elementary.

Please email me the pertinent maps for the proposed routes including bike lanes and on sidewalk riding required. Please specifically indicate the location of all sidewalks and bike lanes in Stonegate Motor Park on E. Rundberg. We also want to know your plans for permanent accompaniment of the youngsters to and from school from August 25 through May 2015 and for the years to follow (i.e. numbers of individuals, paid or volunteer, from what agency, at what times, how many teams etc) . What are your specific plans for getting children home safely when they require after school enrichment or tutoring and their parents do not own private vehicles?

I will be meeting with city officials during the afternoon of Tuesday, Aug 5 (tomorrow), so a timely response to this request will be much appreciated.

Thank you.

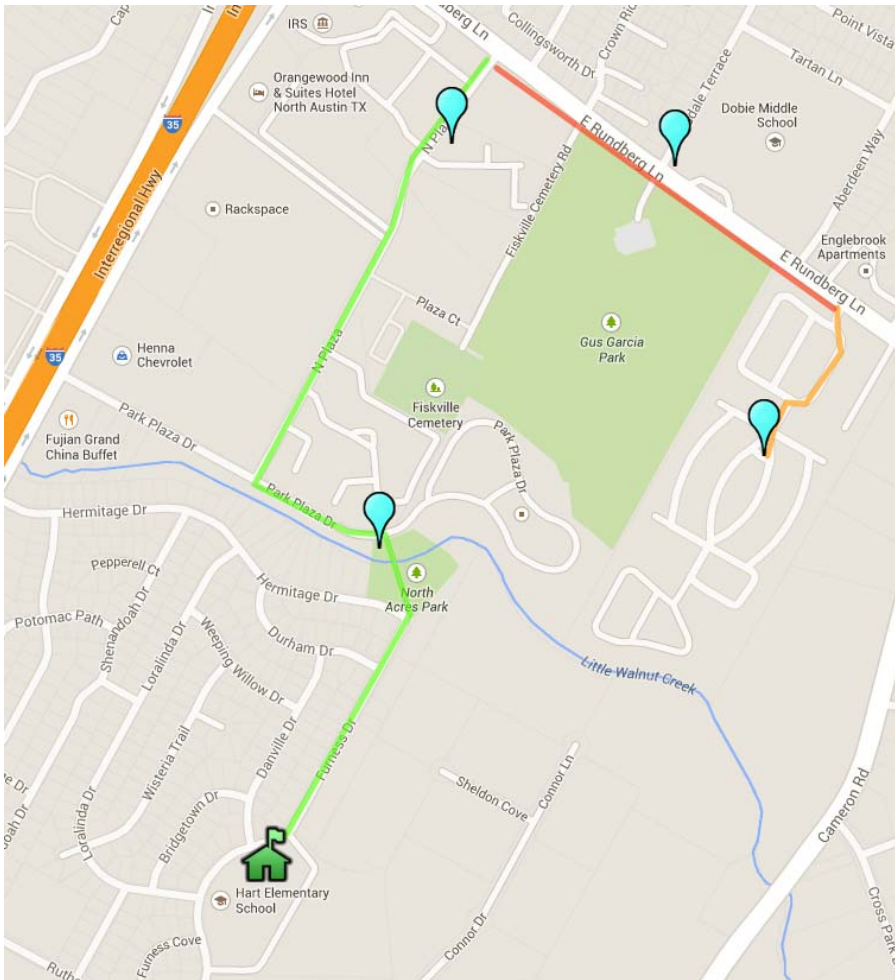
Regards,
Mary Jo Hernandez MD
Restore Rundberg Team
Place 13, Health representative
cell 512-751-7135

RESPONSE:

Mary Jo,

I've tried to answer all of your questions thoroughly but please let me know if you need any further clarification.

I've attached the original notice for the proposed separated bicycle tracks along North Plaza, Park Plaza, and Furness to the school; the map showing the proposed facilities is on the second page.



This simple map that I've put together shows our current bike train route plan.

The blue paddles represent the pick-up/drop off locations, though we may adjust these if necessary. There are no sidewalks or bike lanes within the Stonegate Mobile Home Community (indicated by the orange line), but the speed limit is 10 mph with multiple speed humps.

The red line indicates the section of E. Rundberg on which students will ride on the sidewalk (or walk their bikes). They may also choose to ride on a gravel path that runs parallel to Rundberg in Gus Garcia park for part of that segment. Students gathering at Dobie Middle School will walk their bikes across Rundberg at the pedestrian signal, with a crossing guard, before joining the group on Rundberg.

The rest of the route, indicated in green, would be the proposed on-street separated bicycle facility.

After the September ride-alongs with volunteers and special COA guests from APD, AFD, Park Rangers, and Code Compliance, students will be accompanied by 2 to 4 paid bike train leaders. The Safe Routes to School Program will hire and manage these bike train leaders for the 2014-2015 school year, and they will follow the same route as above. After this pilot year, we will evaluate the program before making staffing decisions for following years.

We will work with the school to determine the best time for the afternoon bike train, but in our current plan the bike train will depart after school releases at 2:45 pm. The parents of students staying late for academic enrichment and other programs will be responsible for getting their children home. Please note, the City of Austin and the Safe Routes to School Program were not part of the decision to remove school buses – that is strictly an AISD decision. Our program saw an opportunity to provide a community benefit with this pilot bicycle program and proposed bicycle infrastructure, but parents are ultimately

responsible for transporting their children. We hope they will also choose to use the provided bike infrastructure as a transportation option.

We're still looking for volunteers for September, so if you would like to participate or help us spread the word it would be greatly appreciated!

Please let me know if you have any further questions, and thank you for your interest in the program.

Chelsea Donahue

Safe Routes to School Program
Public Works Department
City of Austin

(512) 974-9319
chelsea.donahue@austintexas.gov